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25X1

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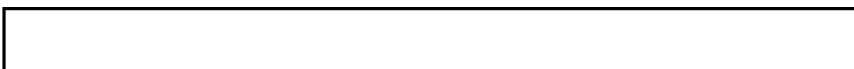
CONTENTS



West Germany - Poland: Bonn is seeking to maintain the momentum of its Eastern policy through overtures to Warsaw. (Page 7)

Belgium: Consultations on a new government are likely to be difficult and lengthy. (Page 8)

Denmark: Copenhagen wants to be reassured that the US accepts Denmark's policy on nuclear weapons. (Page 9)



Nigeria: Peace proposals (Page 10)

25X1

25X1

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Next 8 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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West Germany - Poland: Bonn is seeking to open a dialogue with Warsaw concerning the Oder-Neisse line.

Chancellor Kiesinger intends to ask President de Gaulle during their talks on 15-16 February to inform the Poles that West Germany is prepared to discuss the border issue. Foreign Minister Brandt intends to ask Sweden to transmit the same message to Warsaw, and other diplomatic channels may be used.

The initiative toward Poland is designed to maintain the momentum of West Germany's Eastern policy following the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia on 31 January.

According to a West German Foreign Ministry official, Bonn might be prepared to make a declaration committing itself on the border question at a future peace conference, if this would clearly lead to a resumption of diplomatic relations. Sentiment has been growing in West Germany for acceptance of the Oder-Neisse line, but Bonn's official position is that German boundaries must be determined at a peace conference officially terminating World War II.

West German officials see little chance of a breakthrough with Warsaw at present but view this probe as the first move in a campaign to soften the hard Polish line toward West Germany. They also reason that the probe will make it more difficult for the Poles to assert that Bonn is intransigent on the border issue.

For their part, the Poles may be willing to hold private exploratory talks. Immediate results should not be expected.

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8 Feb 68

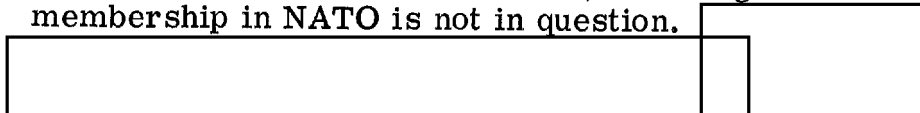
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Belgium: A cabinet crisis has arisen after the government of Prime Minister Vanden Boeynants collapsed yesterday.

King Baudouin is consulting with political leaders on forming a new government. In view of the tension between the French and Dutch-speaking communities, these consultations are likely to be difficult and lengthy. If the King cannot obtain agreement among the major parties on a successor, elections will be necessary.

The major parties, however, are under pressure to come up with some sort of a compromise since elections would probably benefit only the small, militant parties.

Foreign policy is not an issue, and Belgium's membership in NATO is not in question.



8 Feb 68

8

Denmark: The new Danish Government wants to be assured that the US accepts Denmark's policy of banning nuclear weapons in Greenland.

Foreign Minister Hartling informed Ambassador White on 7 February that Denmark does not anticipate renegotiation of the 1951 Greenland base treaty. He sees something less formal, such as an exchange of notes, in which the US would accept Denmark's policy of not allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on its territory and banning overflights of aircraft carrying such weapons.

Hartling indicated that this formula would satisfy what he and the government see as the insistent public demand for positive assurances that Denmark will rigidly stick to its stand against nuclear weapons.

8 Feb 68

9

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Nigeria: The secretary general of the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat is going to Lagos on 9 February to present his latest proposals for halting Nigeria's civil war. Although his proposals provide for the maintenance of a united Nigeria, federal leaders will probably react negatively, especially since their military campaign is going well. Biafran leader Ojukwu recently has appeared more flexible regarding Biafran sovereignty and already may have approved the Secretariat's initiative.

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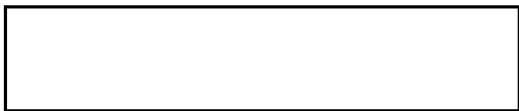
8 Feb 68

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